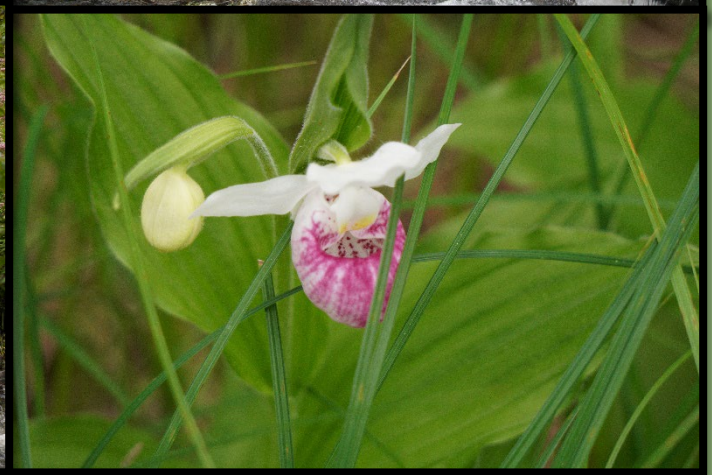
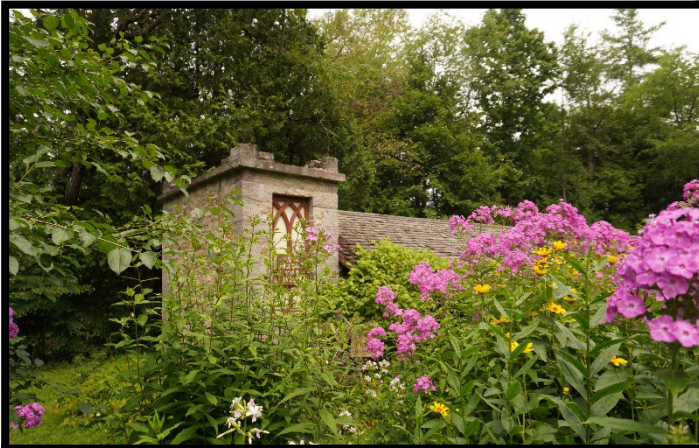


Summary of  
Discussion  
Paper Survey  
Results

# Land Conservation and Resource Strategy

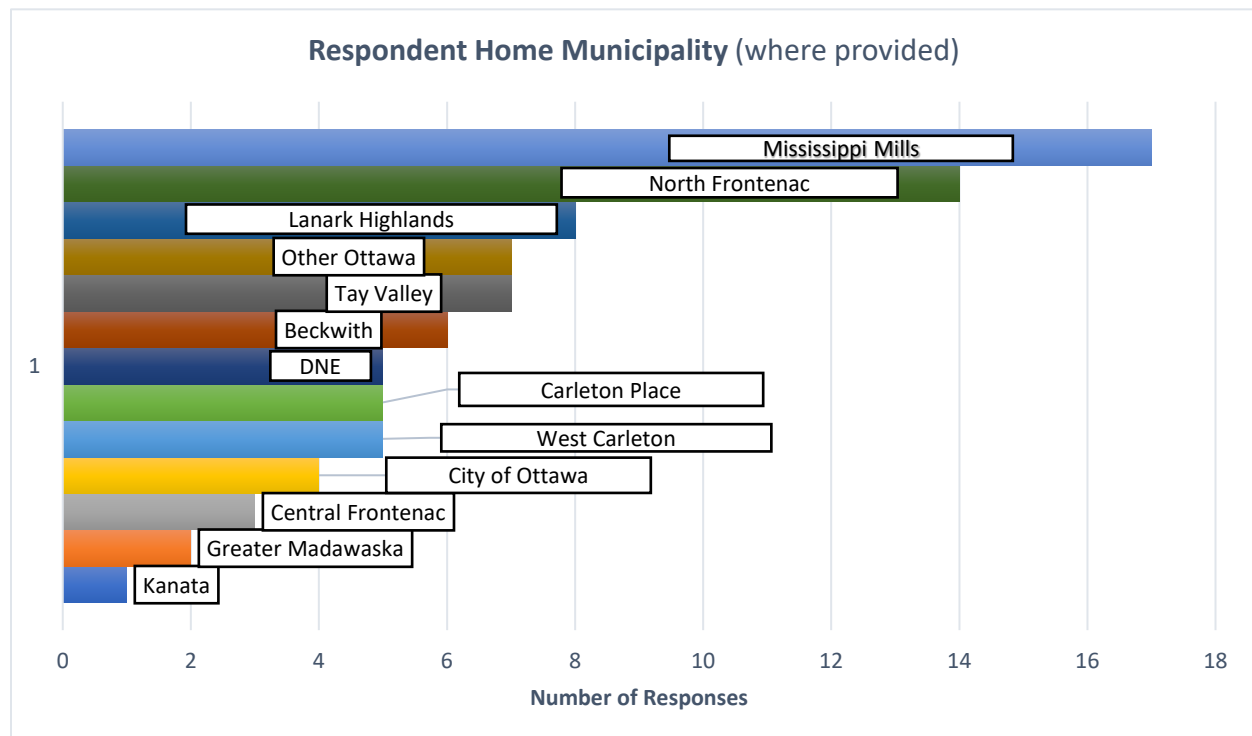


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## Overview

- 84 submissions in total.
- Surveys were received from the following (where declared):
  - Municipality of Mississippi Mills
  - City of Ottawa
  - Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office
  - Friends of Lanark Highlands
  - Dalhousie Lake Association
  - National Capital Commission
  - Lanark County Arts & Heritage
  - Middleville & District Museum
  - Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum
  - Lanark Museum
  - Lanark County Museums Association
  - Briarbrook Brookside Morgan's Grant Community Association
  - NetZeroPLUS Canada
  - Lake Mississagagon Association
  - Heritage Almonte
  - Ennis Maple Products
  - Mississippi Lakes Association
  - Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists
  - Canonto Lake Property Owners Association
  - Climate Network Lanark
  - Ducks Unlimited Canada
  - Ebbs Bay Property Owners Association
  - Landowners, Cottagers, Farmers
- A majority of respondents were from Mississippi Mills, North Frontenac, and City of Ottawa.



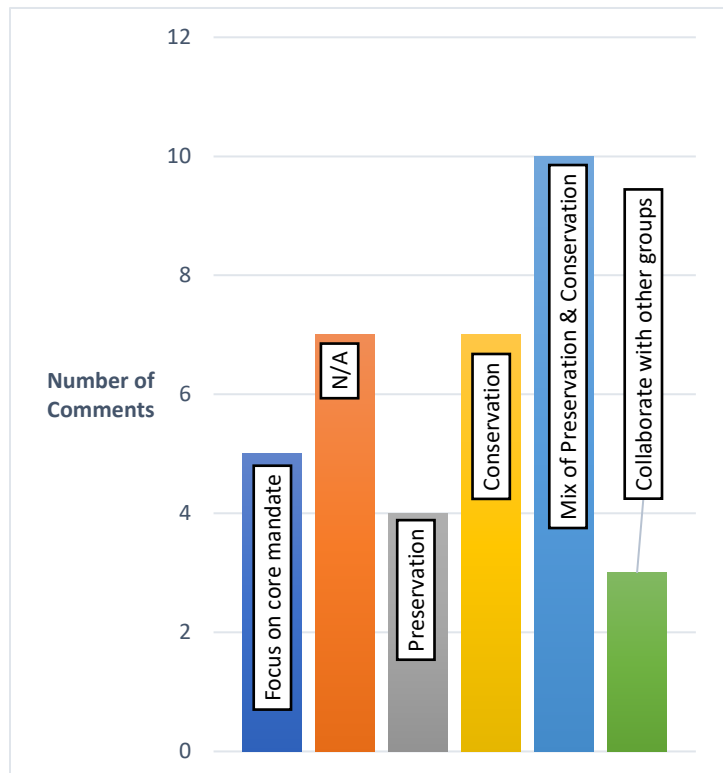
# 1. Land Conservation

## Question: Where do you think MVCA should focus its land conservation efforts?

- a) Preserving land to protect hydrological or ecological functions, with limited public use.
  - b) Conserving land to protect its hydrological or ecological functions, while providing for some public use.
  - c) A mix of conservation and preservation properties is appropriate.
- 52% of respondents felt a mix of conservation and preservation properties is appropriate.
  - 31% respondents felt that MVCA should focus on conserving land to protect its hydrological or ecological functions, while providing for some public use.
  - 11% of respondents felt that MVCA should focus on preserving land to protect hydrological or ecological functions, with limited public use

### Comment Trends

- 28% of the comments highlight a mix of conservation and preservation properties.
- 19% of the comments highlight the importance of conserving land to protect its hydrological or ecological functions, while providing for some public use.
- 14% of comments mention focusing on core mandate and/or current properties.



## Snapshot of Comments

1. Conservation purposes to reduce overuse, waste or harm to the natural environment. The MMLT, and NCC own preserved lands throughout area, and Lanark County owns over 11K acres of County forest with public access available to some or most of these lands.
2. Conservation Authorities mandate more aligned with conservation than preservation. Conservation is also more consistent with their status as municipally-funded agencies. If municipalities want to identify preservation as a policy objective, then they have other tools available to them to achieve that objective. Moreover, other agencies and organizations focus on preservation.
3. MVCA lands also preserve/conserves indigenous (Algonquin) unceded territory and cultural resources (such as archeological resources) other values and areas where rights-based harvesting activities are conductive. This should be acknowledged, promoted, and enhanced through direct involvement and participation by indigenous communities/members in decision-making processes.
4. The ecological condition and situation of the land should determine its conservation vs. preservation strategy. Note that MMLT and DUC hold land that serve both functions. Part of a property may have a hiking trail near the road, but the interior is off-limits to the general public.
5. Conservation is a nature-based solution to climate change and serves to reduce biodiversity loss. Community engagement with the natural world offers incredible mental, physical, emotional, intellectual benefits (cultural ecosystem services). Nature engagement is the bedrock of long-term conservation support from the community. Human and planet health are interdependent and it is increasingly important to nurture both. Dr. Dalal Hannah of Carleton's work focuses on freshwater conservation science, a good fit for MVCA's work.
6. Conserving and protecting land within the watershed shall be the key mandate of MVCA. All management strategies shall be based on maintaining the ecological integrity of open lands, forests, water including smallest streams, creeks, wetlands, rivers and lakes, all which hold a natural bearing on the watershed. Establishing regulatory boundaries to define jurisdiction of MVCA, including flood plain mapping based upon a twenty-year outlay, is necessary. Some alterations of this boundary by man-made structures may be permitted for some non-residential development as long as it doesn't impinge upon the natural integrity of the watershed. Within these boundaries are many existing natural and man-made structures which deserve conservation and protection actions. These can be controlled by MVCA in conjunction with other agencies. Therefore, I agree that all three OPTIONS for Land Conservation within the watershed be observed. I think this can be observed with the cooperation of local Land Trusts, municipalities concerned and local and local organizations such as fish and game, Naturalist Clubs and Friends of. MVCA should divest itself of any holdings that are not directly connected to the watershed.
7. The distinction between conservation vs preservation can result from the nature of the property and its geographic context. Urban properties are key for ecosystem services and people's mental health, while upper watershed lands can focus on protecting ecosystem values. I don't think there is a need for a choice. I would none the less invite you to align your definition of conservation and protection of land to those of the Pan Canadian Standard for Protected and Conserved areas, so the lands you secure can be accounted as part of Canada's 30x30 goal.
8. Suggest important to do both since people will support the environment if they can interact with it in an appropriate way. Also need to provide some privacy for nature to do its thing.

## 2. Acquiring More Land

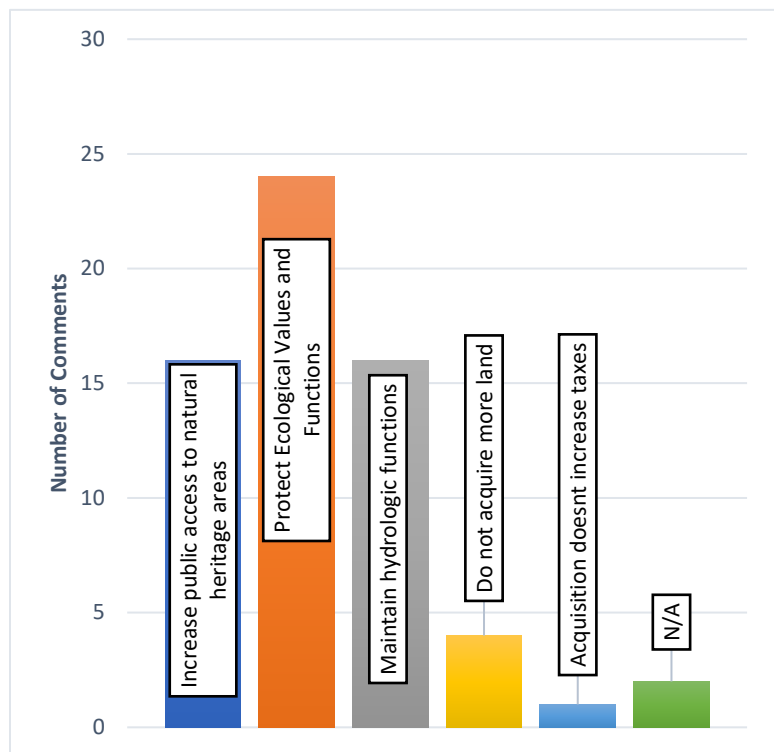
**Question: Should MVCA acquire more land or enter into other agreements over the next 20 years to:**

- a) increase public access to natural heritage areas?
- b) protect ecological values and functions?
- c) maintain hydrologic functions in the watershed?

- 46% said MVCA should acquire land to protect ecological values and functions.
- 26% said MVCA should acquire land to protect hydrologic functions.
- 20% said MVCA should acquire land to increase public access to natural heritage areas.

### Comment Trends

- 38% of comments mention the protection of ecological values and functions.
- 25% of comments mention maintaining hydrologic functions in the watershed.
- 26% of comments mention increasing public access to natural heritage areas.



## Snapshot of Comments

1. The CA should not acquire new land through purchase or lease. The CA is not responsible for recreation; suggesting so is inappropriate creep of mandate. Management and or stewardship agreements, conservation easements may be appropriate. With the gap in capital/infrastructure funding currently being navigated by municipalities (AND the MVCA itself), acquiring new lands is inappropriate and cannot be funded by municipalities (paying for acquisition, O&M costs).
2. The options above should not be exclusive. Although maintenance of hydrologic functions is the primary mandate of CAs, they can also play a role in increasing public access and protecting ecological values and functions. Properties that serve all three functions would be a priority. The CAs can play an important role in providing for public access and ecological protection in rural areas where municipalities are limited in their ability to secure parkland by provincial regulations or lack of development that triggers parkland dedication.
3. See comment 1 for reference to protection of Indigenous (Algonquin) values. Increasing access for public should also first be seen as increasing opportunities for Indigenous peoples, who respectfully deserve to be referred to as separate from the general public. Incorporation of and management to enhance Indigenous rights-based activities and access should be a priority for consideration in each area of the discussion paper. Having public access to a large portion of MVCA is important, as long as it does not pose a risk of being detrimental to the values and functions these lands protect.
4. Acquisition via other than purchase agreements recognizing that legal, environmental and operational obligations of MVCA for stewardship and management of assigned lands. Must recognize level of effort for due diligence in acquiring lands and whether approach will be opportunistic/organic growth (as opportunities present themselves) or targeted/active based aligned with MVCA Strategic Plan
5. All of the above depending on the situation. However, I don't believe that MVCA should acquire land, but rather work through other conservation land holders to target certain properties and to support their acquisitions. Using the Morris Island and the CRCA model, MVCA could work with DUC or NCC to acquire and then "manage" one of their properties for public access. This approach makes the best use of each organization's skills and resources.
6. Increasing public access to such sites with a low impact model (Morris Island) allows human enjoyment, preservation of the ecology and watershed systems of the areas acquired
7. MVCA can, or possibly should, strive to acquire any additional lands but only if such lands are directly related to the Mississippi Watershed area and have ecological or hydrologic values. I agree that MVCA can evaluate other offered lands in order to refer the request to other agencies such as LAND Trust, municipalities etc.
8. I consider a balance is necessary between protecting ecological values and services with passive access to green and blue space, which is very relevant in equity purposes as man people and new comers who do not own cottages have limited options to access beaches, water, rivers and forests.
9. Primary focus should be to preserve and protect ecological areas. Hydrologic function can be maintained within current capacity but needs to be planned and operated well, purchasing more land if and when needed due to lack of existing capacity or infrastructure to balance function. Public access should be 3rd priority however natural heritage should be sought for protection if in jeopardy or threatened by loss or integral features.

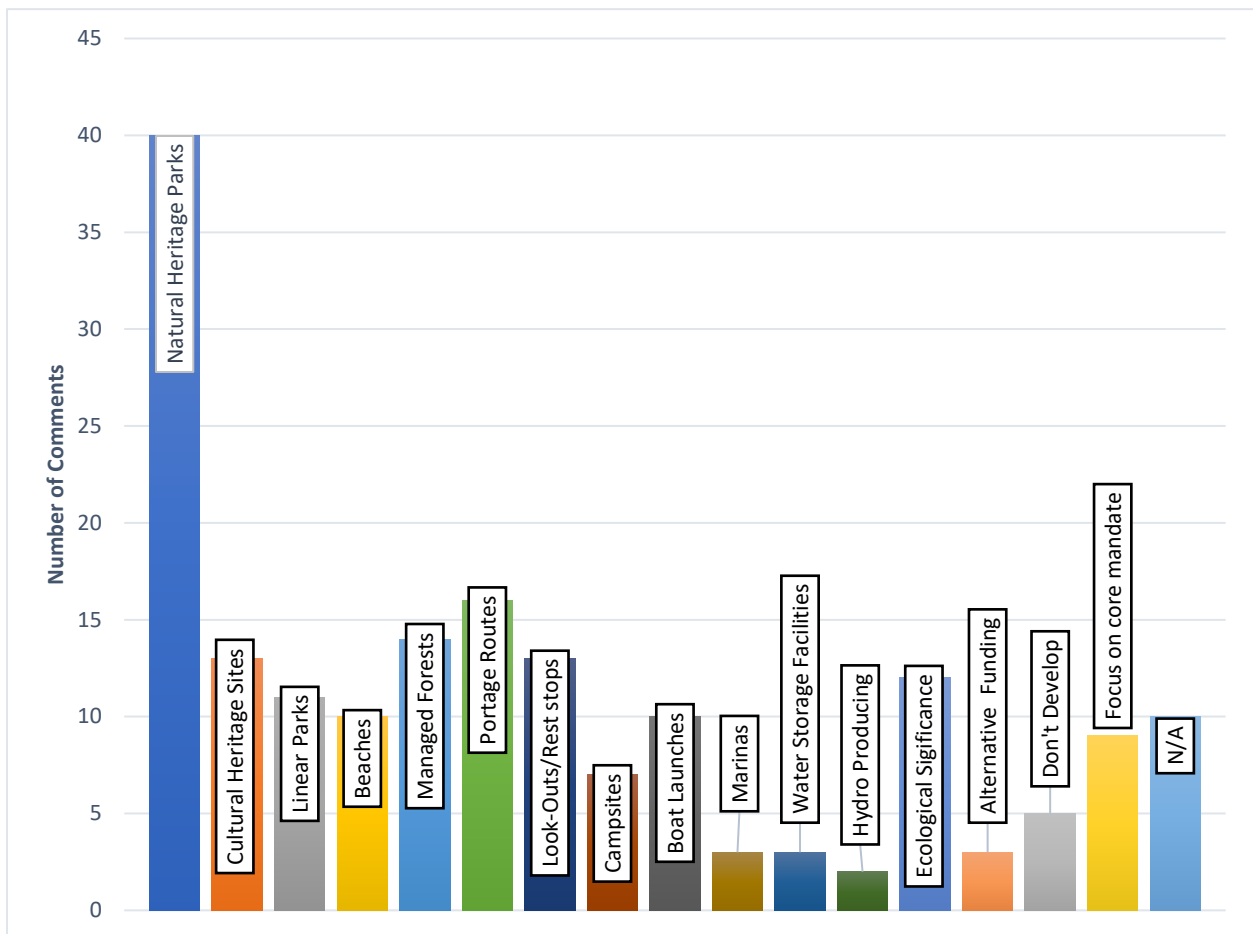
### 3. Facility Types

**Question a) What type of facilities do you think MVCA should develop over the next 10-20 years?**

NOTE: This was an open-ended question with no fixed list.

Comment Trends Q. a)

- 22% of comments mention/support Natural Heritage Parks.
- 9% of comments mention portage routes.
- 8% of comments mention managed forests.
- 7% of comments mention properties/facilities with ecological significance for protection and or education purposes
- 7% of comments mention lookouts/rest-stops

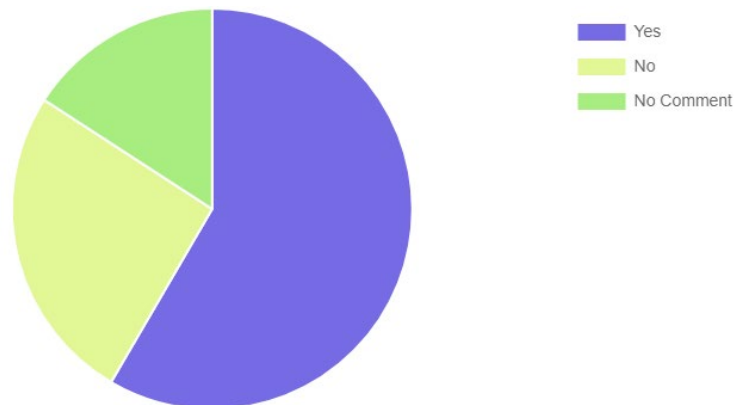




### Snapshot of Comments Q. a)

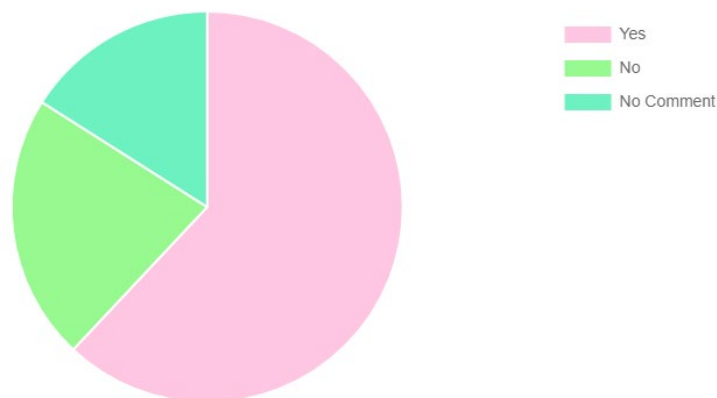
1. The CA should not develop new facilities of the next 10-20 years, unless they generate revenue. The CA should focus on core responsibilities and work in partnership with organizations on anything they take on to ensure proper financial strategies are in place
2. Assuming that the restriction on use of staff for "programming" does not include maintenance, the MVCA could continue to develop and operate passive use facilities that do not require continuous staffing. This could include natural heritage parks, some cultural heritage sites, scenic lookouts, rest stops, boat launches, etc....
3. On their trails open up washroom facilities, open for winter sport, warm up huts or ability to camp all year round.
4. Portage trails, and easement to provide access to water bodies and water routes, campsites and increased camping opportunities. Signage/information kiosks sites at access points should be established and maintained and include and promote Algonquin history within the information.
5. Low-impact trails, lookouts, and water access sites. Anything more ambitious should be undertaken in collaboration with Townships or Counties so that costs, risks and benefits are shared.
6. Given the current crises facing our health system and the potentially powerful therapy Nature offers, MVCA is encouraged play an important role in offering nature experiences, educational opportunities etc. with a mix of sites from interior forest to look-outs and rest stops, urban and rural, recreational and contemplative. All the while ensuring diverse habitat is well stewarded.
7. More natural heritage parks where suitable and where adds to developing public understanding and buy-in for the role of MVCA and protection.
8. Lands in the watershed that are worthy of preservation because of unique ecological and environmental habitat as well as service to wetlands. Some lands should be protected, not logged or used for regular public access. 2. More lands for educational use with public access
9. These are broad categories, but the development of sites that can also be used to generate income to support the MVCA operations would seems to be progressive process. This could wed a positive mix with the operation of low impact sites as well.
10. Linear parks, managed forests, natural heritage parks. As a rule I am not sure CA should be in the business of cultural heritage - except where there are exceptional structures or historic features - Mill of Kintail is a good example, Crawford Lake in Halton is another. In a perfect world a partnership with the province/municipality would be ideal to run these - but I recognize no one really has \$\$ to pay. CAs should not be in the business of marinas, beaches, camp sites etc.
11. Natural Heritage Parks in conjunction with property acquisition and re-naturalization with access to the public where sustainable.
12. With climate change, hydrological infrastructure to maintain, support, enhance/monitor volume is key for all. Community relies on CA for this role. Priority should be given to capacity followed by environmental and ecological preservation, protection, enhancement. Human use of CA land is lowest priority.

**Question b) Do you think MVCA should transfer the museum collection and its management to a heritage organization?**



54% of respondents support the transfer of the museum collection and its management to a heritage organization. 27% disagree.

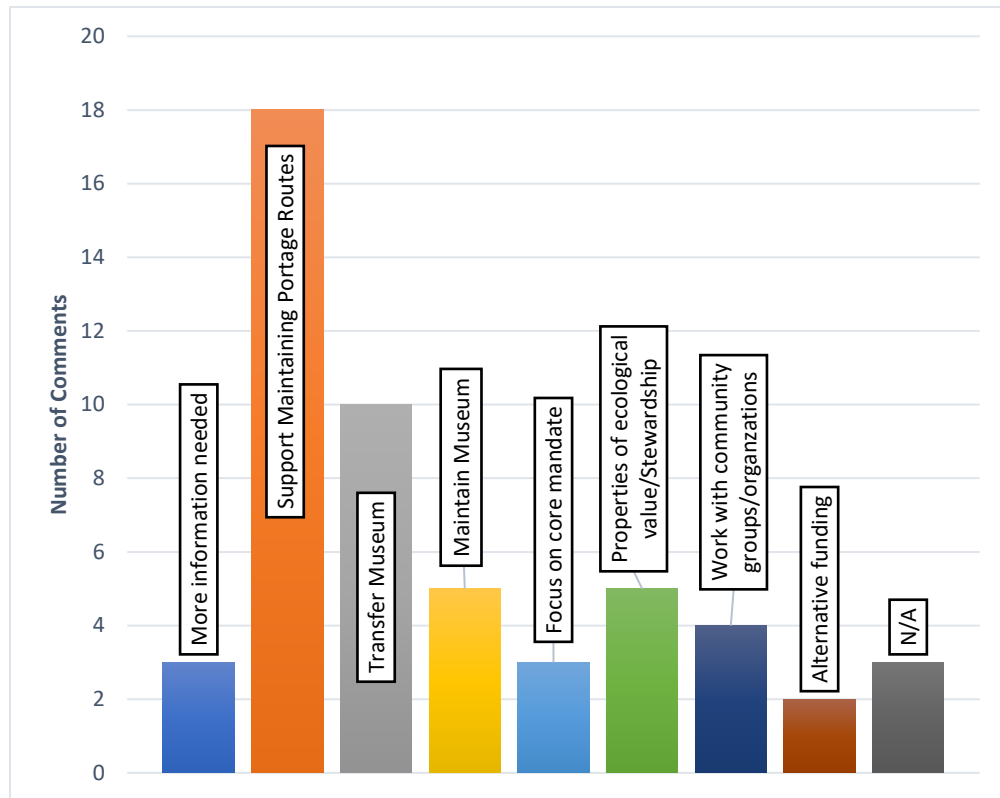
**Question c) Do you think there is a role for MVCA in managing portage routes?**



60% of respondents feel that there is a role for MVCA in managing portage groups. 25% disagree.

**Comment Trends Qs. b) and c)**

- 34% of comments support MVCA maintaining portage routes.
- 19% of comments mention support in transferring the museum collection.
- 9% of comments support MVCA maintaining museum collection.
- 9% of comments mention a focus on stewardship and/or protection of properties with ecological value.
- 7% of comments mention cultural heritage sites.



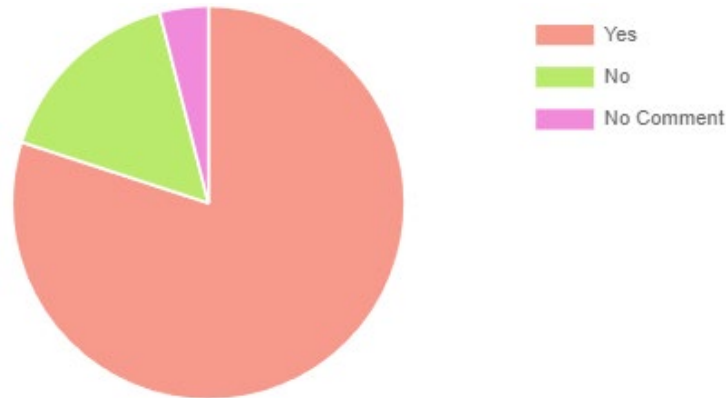
### Snapshot of Comments Qs. b) and c)

1. Management of portage routes could fall within the MVCA portfolio because these routes can have impacts in regulated areas equivalent to some forms of development. A badly situated or managed portage route can result in substantial ecological degradation.
2. Indigenous artifacts should be curated by indigenous peoples if repositories and capacity in available within communities to curate these resources. If not, the most local museums should be utilized or partnered with to manage the museum collections. Portage routes are part of the cultural identity of the landscape and promote the human functional element of lands managed and operated by MVCA. It makes sense that portage values within the MVCA lands/jurisdictional areas are managed by MVCA.
3. divesting/transfer of cultural assets is appropriate but will be a challenge without a source of funding for recipient organization to manage/maintain the asset. Portage routes between waterways within MVCA jurisdiction makes great sense.
4. Lanark County Arts & Heritage urges MVCA to invest in Mill of Kintail Museum and the associated the R. Tait McKenzie and Dr. James Naismith Museum and collections. They are vital to preserving the history of this area, and on top of that, they are vital to the tourism industry in Lanark County. Having them located in the park creates a true destination.

5. I think the Mill and collection is the main tent pole in MVCA outreach and education and profile in the community—so retaining control of that is key. Canoe routes: if MVCA didn't manage, would they cease to be suitable for use—if so, maybe MVCA to manage; if not....
6. Type of facilities MVCA should own, or manage or have jurisdiction of in conjunction with other jurisdictions, listed sites, as long as they are connected to our watershed.  
Questionable are Purdon, K&P, camp grounds, marinas, supervised beaches, look-outs and rest stops outside the watershed MVCA should maintain property of Mill of Kintail but must seek other agencies to manage it. Canoeing is a most valuable asset for the municipalities. It would be great if MVCA or the relevant municipalities owned the properties where portages are necessary, but they don't.
7. I think with the terrible cuts to CAs you need to put your money into conserving as much accessible land as possible, not improving accessibility. If funding improves, sure portage routes would be nice
8. It is very difficult for anyone but the MVCA to develop boat & canoe launches on the sides of rivers and lakes. Volunteer groups could be used to manage & maintain the routes, with MVCA oversight & funding.
9. Yes, museums should be under the purview of museum, archives, and library professionals. I would recommend for the transfer of these responsibilities to another organization. This would enable MVCA to focus on conservation-oriented mandates.
10. No individual municipality in the rural areas would be willing to spend the money needed for a museum, cultural site. Especially as visitors would come from many different areas. The Mill of Kintail would probably be in private hands. Re canoe routes. Needs a coordinated approach which means ca is best suited to do this.

## 4: Permitted Uses

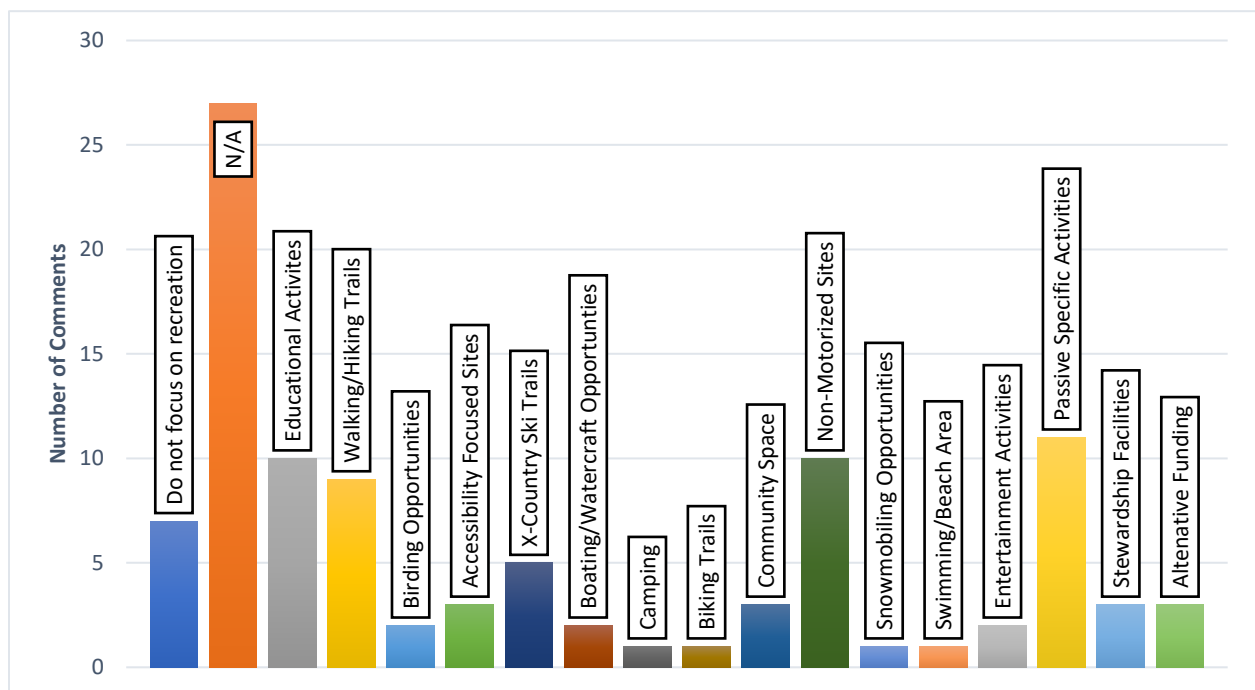
**Question a) Are you supportive of the current mix of passive and active recreational activities at MVCA sites?**



84% of respondents are supportive of the current mix of passive and active recreational activities at MVCA sites. 12% are not supportive of the current mix.

**Question b) Are there specific passive or active recreational activities you think MVCA should investigate at one or more of its existing sites?**

NOTE: This was an open-ended question with no fixed list.



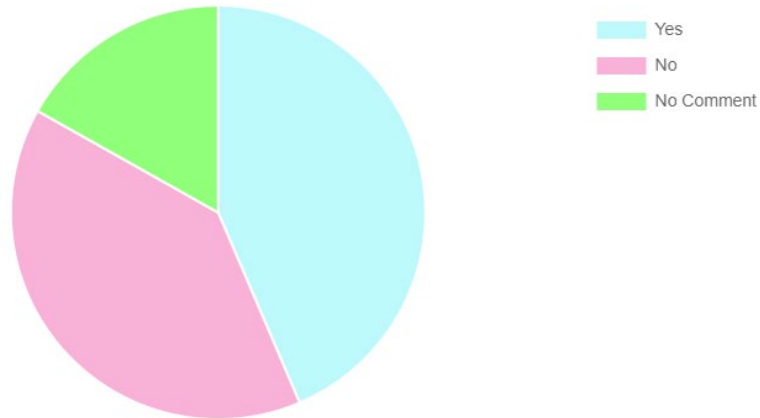
### Comment Trends Qs. a) and b)

- 11% of comments mention specifically passive recreational activities.
- 10% of comments mention prohibiting motorized vehicles (i.e. no snowmobiles, no boat motors, no dirt bikes).
- 10% of comments mention educational opportunities & activities.
- 27% of comments are no comment/not applicable/unclear.
- 9% of comments mention walking/hiking trails.

### Snapshot of Comments Qs. a) and b)

1. With any activities there should be consideration given to means of generating income from activities to be at least revenue neutral should be strongly encouraged.
2. Not for motorized vehicles and events that require parking for large groups as many locations require drive in access. Winter activities for Snowshoeing and skiing would help get people outside to enjoy the four seasons. Partnerships with groups and businesses for rentals, amenities and complimentary services are needed. Do what you do well and let others support the MVCA
3. Any activities that support active mobility, provide opportunities to connect with nature and/or have a low environmental impact.
4. MVCA should provide walking trails suitable to all level of walkers simply to aid people in living healthy lifestyles. MVCA should provide activities that suit both individuals and groups wanting more active and competitive. MVCA should be promoting greater outdoor activity year around for all ages from young children to seniors.
5. The above list is excellent. MVCA could concentrate on the passive side with private partnerships leading on the active recreation. An open mind to opportunities that present themselves would be most appropriate. There is local interest in trails for horseback riding and it can be managed to minimize habitat damage.
6. Except for motorized uses such as ATVs and snowmobiles and motor boats. Also, very careful prescribed guidelines for non-conservation facilities that emphasize their connection to nature. Basketball courts and summer camps etc. should ideally be on municipal or private property not MVCA land, but current facilities should continue with a focus on connecting them to the land and providing nature
7. Perhaps a biological history booklet of the current hiking trails at the conservation areas. including facts about how the land was shaped and what can be found there now.
8. Mostly passive with some centers for learning if we don't teach the importance it will not last over the next generations.

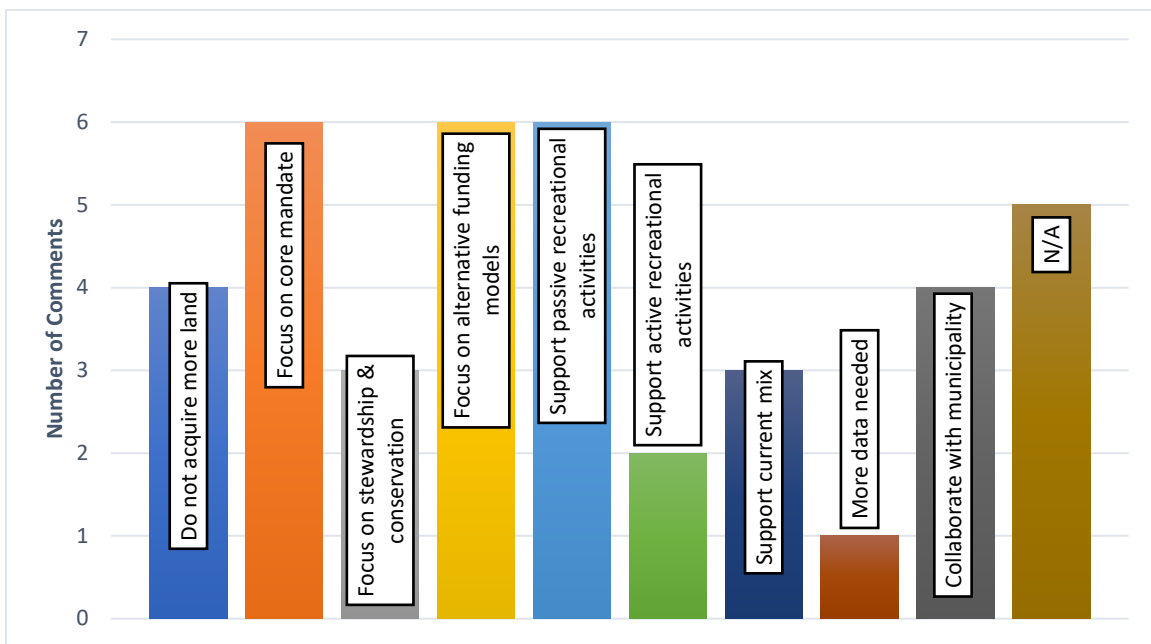
**Question c) Do you think MVCA should consider acquiring one or more properties where a broader range of active recreational activities could be provided?**



37% of respondents believe that MVCA should consider acquiring one or more properties where a broader range of active recreational activities could be provided. 48% disagree.

Comment Trends for Q. c)

- 15% of comments mention supporting alternative funding models
- 16% of comments mention supporting passive recreational activities
- 15% of comments mention that MVCA should focus on core mandate.
- 13% of comments are no comment/unclear/not applicable



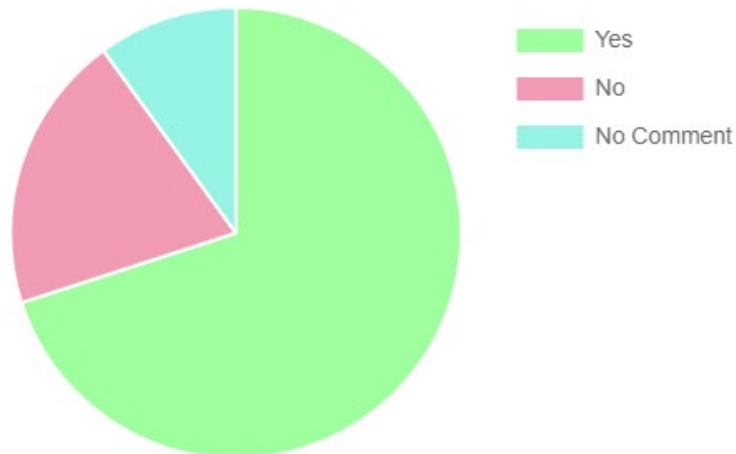
### Snapshot of Comments Q. c)

1. In general, the acquisition of properties for active recreational activities (i.e. programmed activities or activities requiring continuous, direct staff oversight) appears inconsistent with the mandate for the CAs established by the Province. However, such acquisitions and activities might be appropriate on a cost-recovery basis where municipal services are not available.
2. But it would have to be an exceptional/unique opportunity due to its natural assets. Collaboration with Townships or Counties should be considered so that costs, risks and benefits are shared, and that continuing operational costs and benefits are shared.
3. That is a qualified "no" as I think MVCA should play to their strengths (natural heritage, biodiversity etc) but using active recreation as a lure to get individuals out into nature and away from their screens could be beneficial - a way to get individuals to love nature and in turn support your conservation work.
4. I support the current use of passive and active recreational activities providing financial support from MVCA is kept to a minimum. Support will include safety, grass cutting where relevant. I don't support MVCA doing ice rinks, grooming cross-country trails and other specialized activities unless such activities are revenue neutral. In fact, with careful planning, all facilities could be operated on a revenue neutral basis. MVCA's core mandate should be care and control of the watershed.



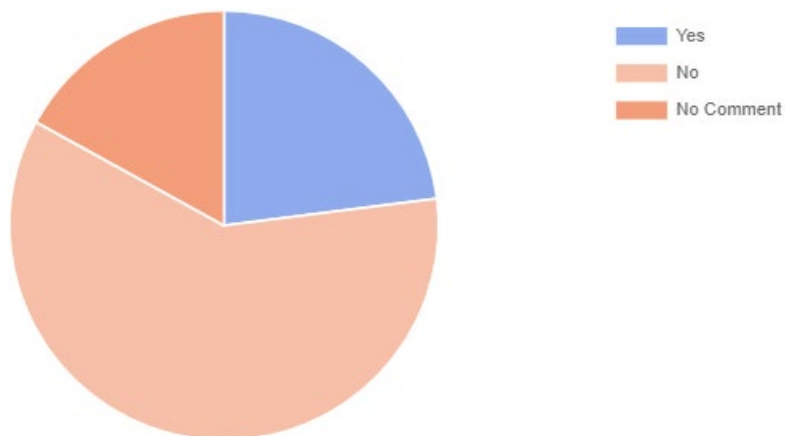
## 5: Dam Properties

**Question a) Should MVCA permit hydro development at a dam where feasible and cost effective?**



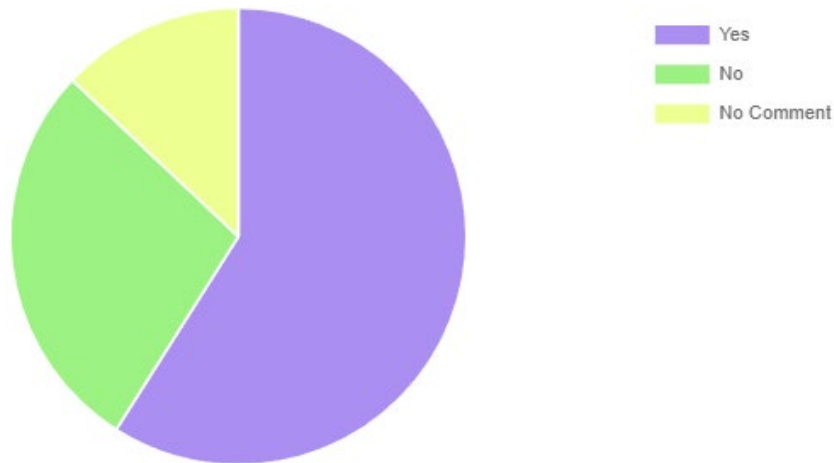
70% of respondents believe that MVCA should permit hydro development at a dam where feasible and cost effective. 20% disagree.

**Question b) Should MVCA build or assume ownership of facilities whose primary purpose is hydro power generation?**



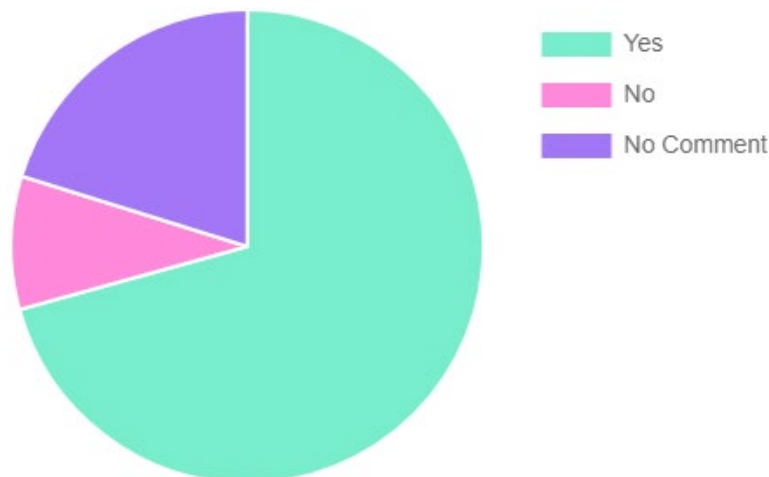
18% of respondents support building or assuming ownership of facilities with the primary purpose of hydro power generation. 64% disagree.

**Question c) Should MVCA build or assume ownership of facilities whose primary purpose is to maintain recreational water levels?**



57% of respondents believe that MVCA should build or assume ownership of facilities whose primary purpose is to maintain recreational water levels. 30% disagree.

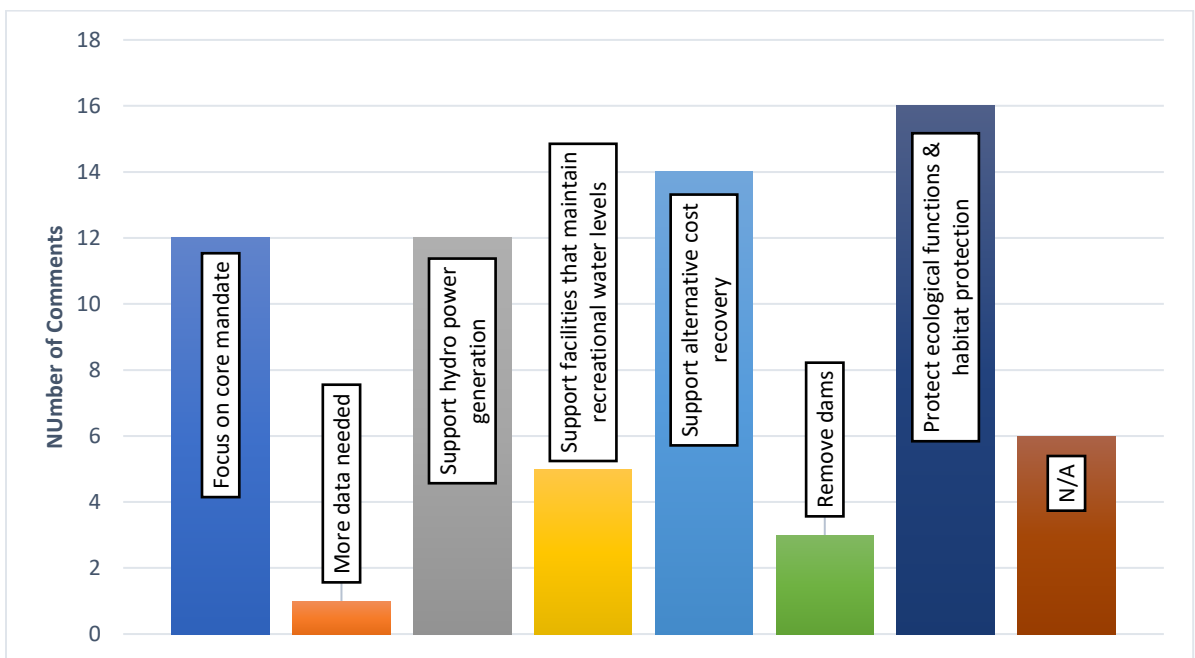
**Question d) Should MVCA have different management and cost recovery approaches depending on the primary function of a dam?**



73% of respondents believe that MVCA should have different management and cost recovery approaches depending on the primary function of a dam. 8% disagree. 19% had no comment.

### Comment Trends Regarding Dam Properties

- 23% of comments mention protection of ecological functions/features and/or habitat protection
- 20% of comments mention support of alternative cost recovery approaches regarding dam properties
- 18% mention that MVCA should focus on core mandate.
- 17% support hydro power generation



## Snapshot Comments Regarding Dams

1. Before hydroelectric generation is being considered as a revenues generation to support MVCA ownership, operation, and maintenance of its dam facilities, MVCA should first consider the removal of dams who primary role is to support recreation and where invasive species management will not be affected. Hydroelectric generation and the damming of rivers within Algonquin Territory is the prime reason why the American eel are almost all but extirpated. If fish safe small-scale hydroelectric opportunities are desired, or inevitable, then revenue-sharing partnerships with Algonquin communities will be required for these hydro-producing dams.
2. Hydro, only if it causes no, or manageable, ecological damage. Loss of a natural asset would require careful consideration and community support in light of the economic benefit; b) Only if it is profitable, same as 4b), i.e. income should be used to support activities considered appropriate by the Board and communities that are not funded by the Province; c) Only if a suitable arrangement can be made with the Township benefiting due to sustained property values and taxation; and, d) Where the purpose is flood and flow control that is in MVCA's remit it should largely carry the cost from Provincial funding, where the purpose is power generation costs should be recovered.
3. Hydro is green so hydro dams, managed with water levels in mind is a good thing. But maybe MVCA would best be as a supporting partner or owner. Managing water levels should not just be for recreation but to address needs of a healthy watershed. And then of course there is the role dams can play is flood relief, a growing and recurring climate change issue.
4. I don't agree that primary purpose of dams should be for recreational levels, even though political aspects such as recreation and personal property designs have been the driving force for dam controls over the years. I know that this political control comes about because your Board is made up of politically elected councilors. I feel strongly that MVCA's primary purpose should be watershed management for safety and security RE: Hydro Development - yes, providing dam is feasible, cost effective and environmentally sound. There are several commercial models of small hydro generators which can be built to add power to our Provincial grid. Perhaps MVCA could invest in this type of development as a fund raiser. Public input is necessary here. Points in a) apply here. Same with assuming ownership of a currently operating facility. I would not suggest this type of activity should be very high on your priority list.
5. While I'm all for a re-naturalization of waterbodies, watersheds etc. the reality is that some of these dams have created enhanced or additional fish and wildlife areas. Raising of water levels is NOT only for recreational use. Many shallow water spawning areas would not exist if it wasn't for the dam controlling levels. Where a benefit is joint: fish - wildlife – man, these structures should be maintained. I believe most of these existing one's would fit that.
6. With climate change flood mitigation is even more important. Recreation levels or a constant water level are important for both aquatic life and cottagers. Who knows and can manage the watershed better than the CA?
7. Suggest enable hydro where feasible with focus on wildlife e.g., eel ladders, fish ladders, etc. Suggest low impact hydro could provide funding to be used by the CA.
8. Focus on core responsibility but partner with energy generating and renewable energy agencies wherever possible as a economic driver for CA that can provide funding for core services. Absolutely this should be a key partnership for MVCA.

## Written Submissions

Detailed comments were received from the following individuals:

- Lucy Carleton, Member of the Mill of Kintail Museum Advisory Committee
- Kathryn Jamieson, Chairperson, Lanark County Arts & Heritage
- Gray Merriam, PhD, Professor Emeritus (Landscape Ecology)
- Tom Cowie, Hiawatha First Nation
- Benjamin Labbe, Nation Huronne-Wendat

Key Comments:

- Support MVCA maintaining the Mill of Kintail museum collection
  - The museum is an important community asset.
    - Public/community space for recreational activities
  - Increases tourism
- Consider partnering, collaborating and consulting with other organizations within the watershed.
- Stewardship and educational opportunities at the Mill of Kintail and MVCA's other Conservation
- Focus on the sustainability of lands and waters